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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

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Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

1. During the period from 16 May to 13 July 2006, 10 additional reports were received from States pursuant to paragraph 10 and one view was expressed by a State pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 59/37. The relevant information concerning those reports and the view are presented below.

Reports received from States pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 59/37

2. **Austria** submitted a report, dated 17 May 2006, referring to the incidents involving the premises owned by the Embassies of Austria that occurred in 2006 in Beirut on 5 February and in Tehran on 5 and 6 February. The relevant part of the report reads as follows:

> "No information is available with respect to serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives in Austria.
>
> "However, the premises of the Austrian Embassies in Beirut and Tehran suffered damages in the course of demonstrations in connection with the caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed published in a Danish newspaper.

* A/61/150.

** This addendum is issued to reflect the contributions received by the Secretary-General after the 15 May 2006 deadline.

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"On 5 February 2006, the building in which both the Danish and Austrian Embassies in Beirut are situated was set on fire in the course of demonstrations. Owing to the destruction of large parts of the building, the premises of the Austrian Embassy will be unusable for approximately one year.

"Furthermore, an arson attack was committed against the Cultural Section of the Austrian Embassy in Tehran on the night of 5 and 6 February 2006, which caused substantial material damage. On 6 February 2006, at around noon, a demonstration took place in front of the office of the Austrian Embassy in Tehran, during the course of which the windows of the Embassy were smashed by stones, most probably thrown with slingshots, endangering the lives of the Embassy staff, who therefore had to be evacuated. Furthermore, the flags of EU Member States, including the Austrian flag, were burned by the demonstrators."

3. **Denmark** submitted a report, dated 18 May 2006, referring to the incidents involving the premises owned by the Royal Embassies of Denmark that occurred in 2006 in Damascus on 4 February, Beirut on 5 February and in Tehran on 6 and 7 February, as well as to an incident involving the premises owned by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran that occurred in Copenhagen on 15 February 2006. The relevant part of the report reads as follows:

"**Syrian Arabic Republic Damascus Royal Danish Embassy**

On 4 February 2006, a crowd attacked the Royal Danish Embassy in Damascus. The premises of the Embassy were vandalized and the building was set on fire. Several law enforcement officers of the Syrian Arab Republic were present near the premises of the Embassy prior to and during the attack. No apparent action was undertaken to prevent the attack. Prior to the attack, the Royal Danish Embassy repeatedly requested the Syrian Arab Republic to provide the necessary protection of the premises of the Embassy in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961). The Embassy staff was evacuated from the Syrian Arab Republic for security reasons on 10 February and returned to the Syrian Arab Republic on 25 February 2006 based on inter alia the assurances of the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic that all necessary measures would be taken to reinforce security protection and increase the number of security personnel on the premises of the Danish Embassy in Damascus. The Embassy was able to resume visa and other operations involving the public on 11 April 2006. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has expressed its readiness to pay compensation in accordance with international law. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has also expressed its intention to conduct an investigation of the attacks. The result of the investigation had not been published at the time of the writing of this report.

"**Republic of Lebanon Beirut Royal Danish Embassy Office**

On 5 February 2006, a crowd attacked the building in which the Royal Danish Embassy Office in Beirut is located. The building was set on fire and badly damaged. Law enforcement officers of the Republic of Lebanon attempted to protect the building, but the action taken was not sufficient to prevent the attack. Prior to the attack, the Embassy Office repeatedly requested

the Republic of Lebanon to provide the necessary protection of the premises of the Embassy Office in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961). The attack caused extensive damage to the Embassy Office. The Embassy staff was evacuated from Lebanon for security reasons on 8 February and returned to Lebanon on 3 March 2006. Due to the extensive damage to the building, the Embassy Office is still unable to operate from its premises, and normal consular business involving the public is still suspended as of the time of reporting. The Government of the Republic of Lebanon has stated its willingness to pay compensation for the damages and losses resulting from the attack on the Danish Embassy Office.

"**Islamic Republic of Iran/Teheran/Royal Danish Embassy**

Crowds attacked the Royal Danish Embassy in Teheran on the evening of 6 February and again on the morning of 7 February 2006. The offices of the Embassy were vandalized and part of the premises set on fire. Several law enforcement officers of the Islamic Republic of Iran were present near and at the premises of the Embassy prior to and during the attack but concrete action to prevent or stop the attack was not taken. Prior to and during the attacks, the Royal Danish Embassy repeatedly requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide the necessary protection of the premises of the Embassy in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961). As a consequence of the attacks and the imperilled security situation that followed, the Embassy staff had to be evacuated from the Islamic Republic of Iran. After having undergone substantial restoration, the Embassy was reopened to the public on 1 May 2006. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed willingness to pay compensation for damages and losses resulting from the attack.

"**Denmark/Copenhagen/the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

On 15 February 2006, a demonstration took place outside the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Even though the Danish police was present in front of the Embassy, some demonstrators succeeded in intruding into the garden of the Embassy. Only minor material damage was sustained (broken windows). The Danish Government has compensated the Embassy for damages caused by the demonstrations."

4. **Japan** submitted a report, dated 30 May 2006, referring to the incidents that occurred in 2005 involving the premises of the Embassy of Japan and the residence of the Ambassador of Japan to the People's Republic of China (9 April), the Consulates General of Japan in Shanghai (16 April) and in Shenyang (17 April), as well as the residence of the Consul General of Japan in Shenyang (17 April). The relevant part of the report reads as follows:

"On 9 April 2005, a large number of people assembled in front of the Embassy of Japan in the People's Republic of China and the residence of the Ambassador of Japan to the People's Republic of China and threw stones and other items at both buildings, which resulted in the destruction of a number of windows.

"On 16 April 2005, a large number of people assembled and surrounded the Consulate General of Japan in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China,

and threw stones, plastic bottles and other items at the building, which resulted in the destruction of a number of windows and damage to the outside walls, the interior decor and painted surfaces of the building.

"On 17 April 2005, approximately 1,000 to 2,000 people assembled and surrounded the Consulate General of Japan and the residence of the Consul General of Japan in Shenyang, the People's Republic of China, and threw stones, eggs, bottles of ink, plastic bottles and other items at both buildings, which resulted in damage to the front gate of the Consulate General and the outside walls of the residence.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China has indicated its intention to restore these buildings to their former condition and has begun restoration work in coordination with the Government of Japan."

5. **Sweden** submitted a report, dated 31 May 2006, referring to incidents involving the premises and property owned by the Embassies of China (9 July 2005), Croatia (4 August 2005), Denmark (24 September 2004, 13 January 2005 and 10 May 2005), Ethiopia (2 and 9 November 2005), the Islamic Republic of Iran (17 June 2005), Iraq (27 May 2005, 4 July 2005 and December 2005), the Russian Federation (11 January 2005 and 22 and 24 March 2005), Slovakia and Slovenia (24 and 25 May 2005) and Zimbabwe (at the end of 2004), as well as the Danish Honorary Consulate in Norrköping (31 December 2004-1 January 2005), the Polish Career Consulate in Sundbyberg, a suburb of Stockholm (21 December 2004), the Charge d'affaires of Lebanon (14 October 2005), the residence of the Ambassador of the United States of America (30 January 2005), the Ambassadors of Zimbabwe (on repeated occasions in 2004) and Zambia (2004). In addition, some minor violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations occurred in Sweden in 2005 and 2006. The relevant part of the report reads as follows:

"During the past two years, the following incidents involving the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives have occurred in Sweden.

"China

On 9 July 2005, two or three Falun Gong supporters, in connection with a demonstration, tried to encroach on the premises of the Chinese Embassy. They also blocked the entrance of the Embassy's visa department. They ultimately left after intervention by the police.

"Croatia

On 4 August 2005, a person at the Croatian Embassy received a telephone call from a Croatian-speaking person with a Serbian accent uttering profanities with reference to the Croatian Thanksgiving Day (5 August) and asking, "Shall I put a bomb at your Embassy and blow you up?" The police kept the Embassy under surveillance during the following days and no incident occurred.

"Denmark

In the early morning of 24 September 2004, the Danish Embassy was attacked by unknown perpetrators. A window in the entrance door was shattered and a large windowpane was seriously damaged and had to be replaced. Red paint was thrown over the facade and in through the broken glass in the door. In two of the Embassy entrance rooms, the walls and the floor were coloured in red. Three paving stones were found outside. (A large window of a neighbouring hairdresser was also broken and a paving stone found inside.) The perpetrators later sent a letter to the Embassy identifying themselves as "Global Intifada". The Embassy was compensated for the damages. The police investigation is still in progress.

On 31 December 2004-1 January 2005, the Danish Honorary Consulate in Norrköping was damaged. Red paint was thrown over the entrance door. No perpetrators were found.

Late in the evening of 13 January 2005, the police were called to the Danish Embassy because of a car fire. According to witnesses, an unknown person had attached a piece of paper with the text "Out of Iraq, Global Intifada" to a car belonging to one of the Danish diplomats. After receiving permission, the car was removed by the police for technical examination. The investigation is still in progress.

Upon receipt of a letter containing white powder that was sent to the Danish Embassy on 10 May 2005, all the staff of the Embassy were evacuated and decontaminated. Following an analysis of the powder, the police authorities confirmed that it was harmless.

"Ethiopia

On the morning of 2 November 2005, 30 persons participating in an unauthorized demonstration outside the Ethiopian Embassy put the Embassy under blockade. In this connection, an Embassy car was bombarded with eggs and its passengers were yelled at in a threatening way. The police ordered the demonstrators to move to another place away from the entry to the Embassy.

On 9 November 2005, a similar unauthorized demonstration took place outside the entry to the Embassy. The demonstrators were again referred by the police to another place away from the Embassy.

"Iran

In connection with the presidential election in Iran on 17 June 2005, when voting by Iranian citizens in Sweden was taking place at the Embassy, about 200-250 demonstrators from the Sharerah organization demonstrated closer to the Embassy than they had been permitted, trying to prevent individuals from voting and confronted and spat at Embassy staff. Police patrols removed the demonstrators to the permitted demonstration area and escorted those persons who wanted to vote to the Embassy entrance. No one was apprehended.

"Iraq

In connection with the parliamentary election in Iraq in December 2005, a plan to commit an arson attack on the electoral facilities used by the Embassy was disclosed and stopped by uniformed guards. Court proceedings against the alleged perpetrators are ongoing.

On 4 July 2005, 50 persons were reported to have assailed the Embassy and barricaded the Embassy staff in the office. The atmosphere in the chancery was threatening. Eventually the assailants left after intervention by the police. The level of police surveillance was increased afterwards.

On 27 May 2005, an anonymous e-mail was sent to the Iraqi Embassy threatening to set it on fire and stating that "Death shall strike all traitors and enemies to Islam". No leads have been found.

"Lebanon

On 14 October 2005, after issuing travel documents to a person who was to be expelled from Sweden, the Charge d'affaires of Lebanon was threatened by relatives of that person. The surveillance level of the Embassy was increased for some time afterwards.

"Poland

In the early morning hours of 21 December 2004, there was an incident of 'attempted arson and unlawful threat against a group' at the Polish Career Consulate in Sundbyberg, a suburb of Stockholm. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at the front of the building, leaving marks on the outer wall. Outside the entrance, Consulate personnel found a basket containing two bottles with unknown contents and a letter that read Christmas greeting: Poland out of Iraq, best regards, Global Intifada. The bottles were taken charge of by the police. An investigation is still in progress.

"Russian Federation

Early in the morning of 11 January 2005, a news-stand not far from the Embassy of the Russian Federation was burgled. Two men were seen committing the crime and then leaving in a car. The car and one of the perpetrators were soon found close by. The police were able to find the second perpetrator on the premises of the Russian Embassy hiding in the basement of one of the residential houses. He was charged with unlawful trespassing. The investigation has been completed and the perpetrator has been sentenced.

On 22 March 2005, a group called 'Global Intifada Stockholm' placed an incendiary bomb under a car belonging to the Russian Embassy that was parked outside the premises of the Mission but in front of a residential house meant for the staff of the Embassy. According to 'Global Intifada Stockholm', the attack was carried out to draw the attention to the 'Russian imperialistic war against Chechnya'. After the incident, Russian property received increased police surveillance for a limited period of time. The car was taken for technical examination. The investigation is in progress.

On 24 March, the Embassy received a threatening e-mail that read: "We can no longer accept your occupation of Chechnya. So now we must declare war against you're state. Our warriors are already in action. I. O.k." No leads have been found.

"Slovakia and Slovenia

In connection with the NATO-EAPC meeting at Are on 24 and 25 May 2005, the Embassies of both Slovakia and Slovenia received threatening faxes warning against participation in the conference.

"United States of America

Early on the morning of 30 January 2005, the police were called to the residence of the American Ambassador. The word 'murderers' had been painted in white and red on the wall surrounding the residence. The guard at the residence had noticed two women carrying a plastic bag outside the gate at 2.40 a.m. At 2.59 a.m., the guard passed the southern part of the wall and then saw what had happened. The plastic bag containing the paint was found by the guard. The surveillance camera tape was given to the police. An investigation has been initiated.

"Zimbabwe

Threats directed towards the Ambassador of Zimbabwe occurred on repeated occasions in 2004. The first was a phone call to the Ambassador of Zambia on his mobile phone. The person who called had mistaken him for the Ambassador of Zimbabwe and demanded that he 'leave Sweden or face death'. The caller alleged that the Zimbabwean Government had insulted an unnamed Swedish official in Zimbabwe. Late in 2004 and in early 2005, the Embassy received hate mail and a number of threatening telephone calls. No leads were found.

"During the past two years, some minor violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives as well as missions and representatives of international intergovernmental organizations in Sweden were registered. Those incidents include trespassing on Embassy premises, minor theft, some cases of harassment of visitors to missions and some cases of unauthorized demonstrations near Embassies. There have also been several incidents where Embassies had arranged activities on premises outside the Embassy and persons blocked the entry to the premises in question, as well as a case of different kinds of graffiti on Embassy premises."

6. **Italy** submitted a report dated 7 June 2006 referring to the incidents involving inter alia the premises of the Italian Cultural Institute in Barcelona, Spain (12 July 2005) and the Consulate General of Italy in Bengasi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (17-18 February 2006). The relevant part of the report reads as follows:

"On July 12, 2005, in Barcelona, Spain, unknown perpetrators placed a bomb outside the main entrance door to the Italian Cultural Institute. The security forces, which intervened rapidly, detonated the device, slightly wounding one agent and killing a bomb-sniffing dog. An investigation is under way.

"In early February 2006, following the well-known events in connection with the cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, there were numerous protests outside some of our Embassies, particularly in Muslim countries, but there were no reports of intrusions and/or violent incidents. At the most, the authorities in the countries concerned arranged for ad hoc control and protection measures.

"On February 17 and 18, 2006, in Bengasi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a crowd gathered in front of the Consulate General of Italy provoked serious disorders that led the Libyan authorities to order an emergency evacuation of the Consul General, his spouse and other officials who were inside the building. The intervention and response of the Libyan law enforcement led to the death and wounding of Libyan citizens, which was followed by the crowd's invasion of the Consulate. The building, which belongs to the Italian Government, is unusable, since it was thoroughly plundered and its walls and facilities practically destroyed."

7. **The Netherlands** submitted a report dated 29 June 2006 referring to the incidents involving the premises owned by the Embassies of Pakistan (4 December 2004) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (11 June 2005) that occurred in The Hague. The relevant part of the report reads as follows:

"On 4 December 2004, a window of the Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague was smashed. The police apprehended the offender at the premises. He was later sentenced to two weeks in prison with one week suspended and a probation period of two years. He was also sentenced to pay damages and, if he did not comply, to nine days of detention.

"On 11 June 2005, a fire bomb was thrown at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in The Hague. The investigation by the police led to an action by an individual, who was sentenced to 12 months in prison, including 8 months suspended, and a probation period of two years, with the additional condition of supervision by the Resettlement Organization."

8. **Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Mexico** and **Monaco** reported that there had been no serious violations during the reporting period.

Views expressed by States pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 59/37

9. In its report, dated 7 June 2006, **Ecuador**, inter alia, expressed the following views:

"The national authorities are of the view that all measures to protect diplomatic and consular officials should be compatible with the work of such officials so as not to hinder their activities. At the same time, appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that main streets in cities where diplomatic and consular premises are located are not blocked for security reasons by the placement of objects or barricades or by the closure of roads, since such situations create serious problems for municipalities and affect urban development."